

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 CIAE-00

SSO-00 PRS-01 USIE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SY-02 SCA-01

IO-06 DIWY-01 NEA-07 /045 W

-----090976 031256Z /43

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3437

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BISSAU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CONAKRY 1577

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT PINS MOPS GV

SUBJ: PEOPLE VS. POLICE: MARKET WOMEN MARCH -- SITREP FIVE

REF: CONAKRY 1559

1. LEADERSHIP. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF GUINEAN LEADERSHIP AND ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD AUGUST 27-28 UNREST AS OF 1000 SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 3. ROUNDUP IS BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH GOG OFFICIALS AND FOREIGN DIPLOMATS DURING PAST THREE DAYS. ---LONG "INFORMATION" MEETING OF GUINEAN "RESPONSIBLES"-- CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MINISTERS, LEADING CONAKRY CITY OFFICE HOLDERS-- WAS HELD IN PEOPLES PALACE AT 1600 SEPTEMBER 2 TO "DRAW CONCLUSIONS ABOUT UNREST. RESULTS OF MEETING ARE NOT YET KNOWN. ---EARLY IN WEEK, MODERATE MINISTERS REPORTEDLY MANDATED ISMAEL TOURE TO URGE PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE TO EASE POPULAR UNREST BY RELAXING AT LEAST SOME OF HIS INTERNAL ECONOMIC

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RULES. MODERATES BELIEVE THAT "SOMETHING MUST CHANGE" IF MORE SERIOUS DISTURBANCES ARE TO BE AVOIDED. THE PRESIDENT ALLEGEDLY REFUSED TO LISTEN AND SEEMS TO BE PREPARING HARSH CRACKDOWN. ISMAEL TOURE, PRESIDENT'S HALF-BROTHER, IS CONSIDERED VIRTUALLY ONLY MINISTER WITH ENOUGH COURAGE OR CLOSE FAMILY STANDING WITH PRESIDENT TO DARE OPENLY TO CONTRADICT OR ARGUE WITH HIM.

---SUBSEQUENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ONE OF FLUX AND INDECISION. PRESIDENT, BUYING TIME, HAS BEEN GROPING FOR APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO HUMILIATING DEFIANCE BY MARKET WOMEN. RADIO HAS CONTINUED TO IGNORE EVENTS (THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2) AND HAS PLAYED TAPES OF OLD SEKOU TOURE MUSLIM SERMONS INSTEAD. IF HARDLINE TACTICS ARE UNLEASHED, TOURE WILL HAVE EVEN MORE TROUBLE THAN IN PAST FINDING PLAUSIBLE SCAPEGOATS. ---EARLY IN WEEK ONLY ABOUT FOUR MINISTERS WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTED SEKOU TOURE'S HARDLINE INSTINCTS, ACCORDING TO RESPONSIBLE GUINEAN CLOSE TO PRESIDENCY. THESE INCLUDED PRO-SOVIET MAMADI KEITA (MINISTER OF EDUCATION-CULTURE DOMAIN), DAFT RADICAL SENAINON BEHANZIN (MINISTER OF IDEOLOGY-INFORMATION), SINISTER MEDIOCRITY KARIM KEIRA (INTERIOR MINISTER), AND WEAK ALAFE KOUROUMA (PEOPLES ARMY MINISTER). BEHANZIN HAS TAKEN TO SWAGGERING ABOUT IN BATTLEDRESS AND PISTOLS "DEFENDING THE REVOLUTION." PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI LIMPLY "SUPPORTS EVERYONE", IS STILL CLOSEST PERSONALLY TO PRESIDENT, AND ALTHOUGH FEARFUL OF PRESIDENT AND NO FRIEND OF ISMAEL TOURE, MAY INCLINE TOWARD SUPPLENESS. "MODERATES" OF VARYING DEGREES TEND TO BE THOSE WITH INSTITUTIONAL STAKE IN MORE RATIONAL ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT; THEY MAY ACTUALLY OUTNUMBER THE "HARDS" AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL AT LEAST WITH RESPECT TO CURRENT CRISIS ISSUES. MINISTERS ARE CONCERNED SINCE PEOPLE'S GRIEVANCES LIKELY TO TURN AGAINST ELITE AS WHOLE, NOT JUST PRESIDENT. ---RESPONSIBLE GUINEAN SOURCE CLOSE TO PRESIDENCY OPINED TO DIPLOMAT ON AUGUST 31 THAT IF TOURE'S HARD LINE PRE-
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VAILS, "MAJOR TROUBLES" FOR PRESIDENT CAN BE EXPECTED BY YEAR'S END IN VIEW OF POPULAR MOOD.

---ACCORDING TO SEVERAL GOG SOURCES, PRESIDENT HAS NOW CONFIDED INVESTIGATION OF DISORDERS TO "HIGH COMMAND" UNDER HIS PERSONAL

DIRECTION AT PRESIDENCY, NOT TO "REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE" UNDER MOUSSA DIAKITE, INTERIOR DOMAIC MINISTER. MOUSSA DIAKITE, AS MINUTER, HAS PLAYED IMPORTWJNT RMM ROUND THE CLOCK IN INVESTIGATION HOWEVER. PRL DIRECTION COMMITTEES AND MAYORS WERE CONSTITUTED AS INQUIRY COMMISSIONS AT ARRONDISSEMENT LEVELS AS OF AUGUST 28. DIAKITE'S AIDE CLAIMED SEPTEMBER 1 THAT INVESTIGATION IS THUS "POLITICAL", NOT (YET) A WHOLESALE RETRIBUTIVE PURGE AS IN PAST.

---MAMADI KEITA AND BEHANZIN HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN TRYING TO INFLUENCE INVESTIGATION IN USUAL "ANTI-IMPERIALIST" DIRECTION. ALTHOUGH MINISTERS SAIFOULAYE DIALLO AND N'FALY SANGARE BOTH REITERATED TO CHARGE WITHIN LAST 10 DAYS THAT KEITA WAS "FAVORABLY IMPRESSED" BY SOJOURN IN U.S. IN JUNE WITH BEAVOGUI AND THAT HE IS "BETTER DISPOSED" TOWARD COOPERATION WITH U.S., OTHER SOURCES CLAIM HE HAS NOT CHANGED HIS BASIC RADICAL VIEWS. VALENTIN SOLDATOV, SOVIET CHARGE, HAS BEEN HYPER-ACTIVE DURING LAST WEEK; HIS CAR HAS BEEN SEEN AT MANY

GUINEAN MINISTERS.

---A LONG-RUMORED BUT POSTPONED ORDERLY MINISTERIAL RESHUFFLE (DATING FROM SPRING 1977) WHICH SOME SOURCES THINK COULD HAVE GONE IN FAVOR OF REGIME PRAGMATISTS NOW SEEMS TO BE ON SHELF AND OVERTAKEN BY NEW EVENTS.

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 CONAKRY 1577

LIMDIS

2. SECURITY. GUY GUICHARD, FORMER SURETE CHIEF (WHO WAS REPLACED IN MID-AUGUST IN SHAKEUP OF NUMBER OF RANKING MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS FOR INVOLVEMENT IN CLANDESTINE SALE OF GUINEAN PASSPORTS TO LEBANESE ELSEWHERE IN WEST AFRICA AT 1500-2500 DOLLARS APIECE) HAS RETRIEVED HIS FORTUNES SOMEWHAT BY TDY EFFECTIVENESS ON PRESIDENCY STAFF BEFORE AND DURING CRISIS. HE IS REPORTEDLY RELIEVED HE WAS IN LIMBO WHEN DISORDERS BROKE OUT AND THUS COULD NOT BE BLAMED AT SURETE. SIAKA TOURE, CONAKRY II GOVERNOR AND PRESIDENT'S NEPHEW, HAS BEEN MORE IN EVIDENCE, APPARENTLY STILL AS CAMP BOIRO'S COMMANDANT, AND MAY HAVE GAINED BACK SOME STATURE THIS WEEK AT EXPENSE OF HIS HARDLINE ARCH-RIVAL KEIRA (ABOVE).
HALF-DOZEN LEBANESE --BAR AND TRANSPORT OPERATORS-- WERE SUMMONED FOR QUESTIONING SEPTEMBER 2, APPARENTLY TO DETERMINE IF ANY PLOTTING HAD OCCURRED IN BISTROS OR TAXIS.

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3. MARKET WOMEN. CONSENSUS AMONG MARKET WOMEN ACTIVE IN PROTEST REPORTEDLY IS TO FIND WAY TO CONVINCE SEKOU TOURE OF NEED FOR DIALOGUE AND CHANGE WHILE NOT SEEMING TOO DISLOYAL, AND TO IMPRESS HIM WITH DEPTH OF POPULAR AVERSION TO HIS DISASTEROUS ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS. SOME ARE CLEARLY MORE BITTER THAN OTHERS--SONG CHANTED AT AUGUST 28'S MASS MEETING (CONAKRY 1533) WAS LOCAL LANGUAGE PARODY OF PARTY DITTY PRAISING TOURE; NEW LYRICS WARNED THAT "DIVORCE" WITH CHIEF WAS NIGH. SEKOU TOURE PROBABLY SEES OPPOSITIONIST WOMEN AS WOMEN, NOT AS ONE PARTICULAR TRIBAL GROUP, ALTHOUGH SOUSOUS, LEAST ADVANCED AND LEAST EDUCATED OF MAJOR GUINEAN TRIBES, BULKED LARGE IN DISORDERS, MOST OF WHICH APPARENTLY OCCURRED IN SOUSOU-REGION TOWNS. OBSERVERS SAY FOULAHS AND MALINKES WERE ALSO IN EVIDENCE IN CONAKRY WEEKEND MOB. WORLD BANK REP WHO PASSED THROUGH FOULAH COUNTRY (PITA, LABE, DALABA) ON AUGUST 27-28 SAYS HE FOUND ALL QUIET. OBSERVERS BELIEVE FOULAHS, GUINEA'S LARGEST TRIBE AND PROBABLY THE MOST HOSTILE TO TOURE, ONCE AGAIN DISPLAYED CAUTION, IN PART BECAUSE THEY HAVE MORE TO LOSE FROM RECKLESSNESS THAN DO POORER SOUSOUS.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. POLICY. GOG STATE COMMITTEE OFFICIAL OPINED TO CHARGE SEPTEMBER 2 THAT EVENTS NEED NOT SLOW DOWN U.S.-GUINEA ENTENTE, BUT HE DID NOT SEEM ALL THAT SURE HOW A CORNERED SEKOU TOURE MIGHT ACT IN SEARCH OF "COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY FORCES." FORTUNATELY, U.S. CARGO SHIP HAS JUST FINISHED PUTTING ASHORE LAST BATCH OF 11,000 HIGHLY VISIBLE TONS OF PL480 RICE. BOEING AIRCRAFT'S JOHN FITZGERALD CLIMAXED POSITIVE THREE-DAY BUSINESS VISIT WITH 40-MINUTE SESSION WITH SEKOU TOURE ON SEPTEMBER 1. (TOURE SEEMED GLAD TO HEAR ABOUT PROGRESS ON MEETING GUINEA'S AIRCRAFT NEEDS BUT AIMIABLY TALKED MOSTLY ABOUT
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AFRICAN BALLET --HE ARRANGED A SHORT-NOTICE PEOPLES PALACE VIP PERFORMANCE FOR FITZGERALD THAT EVENING). EMBASSY HAS PLENTY ELISO TO KEEP "COOPERATION" SIMMERING DURING COMING WEEKS--INCLUDING PROSPECTIVE VISITS-- AND TO ALLAY ANY GOG PARANOIA ABOUT "IMPERIALIST PLOTS" BEHIND UNREST. NEVERTHELESS IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT PUT EXTRA PUSH BEHIND PENDING "COOPERATION DECISIONS(PL 480, ICRC, CUTTERS, CU ITEMS, ETC.) NOT ONLY TO INDUCE TOURE AWAY FROM MORE VIOLENT LEFTISM AND PRO-SOVIETISM BUT ALSO

TO TAKE FULLER ADVANTAGE OF TANGIBLY IMPROVED GOG ATTITUDE
TOWARD U.S. ADMINISTRATION OF LAST FEW MONTHS INTERRUPTED,
TO AS YET UNKNOWN EXTENT, BY GOG'S INTERNAL TROUBLES.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CONAKR01577
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770320-0250
Format: TEL
From: CONAKRY
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Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 CONAKRY 1559
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1392510
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PEOPLE VS. POLICE: MARKET WOMEN MARCH -- SITREP FIVE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MOPS, GV
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/104afb4d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009